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But such defects are almost inevitable in a work of the compass of Mr. Dana's, and his book is remarkable that it exhibits so few. The volume is a delightful one, and deserves to be in the hands of all lovers of poetry. It is a poetical library in itself; it will nourish pure and noble tastes, and promote the most refined enjoyment.

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18. — *The Elements of Heraldry: containing an Explanation of the Principles of the Science, and a Glossary of the technical Terms employed. With an Essay on the Use of Coat-Armor in the United States.* By WILLIAM H. WHITMORE. With numerous Illustrations. Boston: Lee and Shepard. 1866. 8vo. pp. 106.

MR. WHITMORE has long been known as one of the most industrious and accomplished of our students of genealogy and of heraldry, and in this little book he shows his thorough acquaintance with the science of which he sets forth the elements. This is not only the first American treatise on heraldry, but it is beyond comparison the most convenient, accurate, and compendious introduction to the science to be found in our language. The complete ignorance of the subject among our public, and the silly mock heraldry which is common in the assumption of coats of arms by those who are unacquainted with their proper meaning and use, afford good reason for the preparation and publication of such a manual as this. But the true plea for the study of heraldry at this day is the fact that, without some slight acquaintance with it, many of the customs of our ancestors in the Middle Ages are obscure to us, and many allusions and expressions in literature lose their force and significance. The terms of heraldry are familiarly used in our earlier authors; and the science which, so far as the actual life of to-day is concerned, is the most trivial of the pursuits in which the mind of man can be engaged, was, for a long period, of genuine importance in regulating the factitious distinctions of rank, the forms of ceremonial proceedings, and the relations of the various orders of society.

The labors of some of the modern devotees of genealogy and heraldry might well serve as a topic for one of the letters of Lien Chi Altangi to Fum Hoam, first President of the Ceremonial Academy at Peking in China. "I am amused," he says in writing of the folly of some of the pursuits of the learned, "with the labors of some of the learned here. One shall write you a whole folio on the dissection of the caterpillar." But this is a useful treatise, and a noble exercise of the intellect, compared with the tracing out the line of dull and inconspicuous people to an imaginary origin, and fostering the conceit of those who have nothing

to boast of in themselves by supplying them with a pedigree through which there runs a more than homœopathically diluted drop of the blood of the Howards, or a fabulous infusion from the veins of Boadicea. Our democracy must learn to be content with its own humble manliness.

No lover of a pseudo-aristocracy, no admirer of titles and rank, will get much comfort from Mr. Whitmore's beautifully printed pages. Even those whose minds, like that of little Beau Tibbs, "are blazoned over with a variety of glittering images, coronets, escutcheons, &c.," will not find much adapted to the size and turn of their understandings. But he who would learn what Cassio calls "the quirks of blazoning pens" may gain sufficient knowledge of them here to enable him to interpret many of the commonest symbols and emblems of art, many of the lines of our elder poets, and many of the descriptions of the fairest wights in the chronicles of wasted time.

The local antiquary will find matter of curious entertainment in Mr. Whitmore's section on Heraldry in America; and we trust that his remarks on the use of coats of arms in this country may lead to their rejection by those who have adopted them in defiance of propriety, tradition, and good sense.

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19. — *The Literature of the Rebellion. A Catalogue of Books and Pamphlets relating to the Civil War in the United States, and on Subjects growing out of that Event, together with Works on American Slavery, and Essays from Reviews and Magazines on the same Subjects.* Compiled by JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT. Boston: Draper and Halliday. 1866. 8vo. pp. 477.

MR. BARTLETT has added in this volume to his already numerous claims on the gratitude of American bibliographers and students of American history. It is fortunate that a work requiring so much industry, research, accuracy, and special skill was undertaken by one possessing these qualities in a high degree, and that it has been accomplished before the lapse of time had added to its difficulty. Mr. Bartlett's Catalogue contains six thousand and seventy-three entries, many of them titles of ephemeral publications which have already become of extreme rarity; and it is not unlikely that of some of them the only trace hereafter to be found will be that which will exist in this list.

The Catalogue, so far as relates to works on slavery, is less complete than in its other departments; but Mr. Bartlett is undoubtedly correct in his belief that "it contains more titles on this subject than can be found elsewhere." We wish that he would continue and extend his